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CH 5 Reflection

There are many educational philosophies and each person has a different opinion on which philosophy is the best. Teaching can be more controlled by the teacher or by the learner. For example the teacher could only stick to the lessons as to a more open and flexible teaching style. The three educational philosophies that appealed to me the most were Behaviorism, Positivism, and Humanism. I tend more to the student centered form of teaching, where instead of focusing on a group the teacher focuses on the individual student giving them each the type of learning they’d need.

Just because a classroom of more focused on an individual doesn’t mean it isn’t under control. Behaviorism is the idea that a teacher uses the environment of the classroom to control the behavior of the class. The classroom would be organized to focus on desired outcomes in one’s education. The teacher would be in control, but would respect all students. Not only would there be objectives on learning, but on behavior too; and to promote this behavior the student would be rewarded for it. Keeping students motivated is an excellent way to start good behavior routines. Through positive reinforcement one can keep many students motivated. Soon enough the reward of the good behavior will be the good education it can lead to.

Positivism is the educational philosophy that limits learning to truth’s and knowledge that are observable and measureable. I liked this philosophy because as Chemistry major I am always observing new things and writing down measurements and observations to obtain a result whether or not I am the first person to do it or the millionth. A positivist classroom would be more hands on than others. Positivism relies on the student to already be interested in whatever it is they are learning. For example a positivist chemistry class would be difficult for someone who is in that class because they need to take not because they want to. Like and unlike behaviorism the teacher is in control, but instead of using the environment to promote good behaviors they teach the conduct directly. Positivism seems to me better for a science subject where you will need to make many observations and measurements in order to succeed.

Humanism is the educational philosophy that contends that humans are innately good and that they are born free, but enslaved by institutions. I liked humanism because it seemed like the kind of class everyone would be comfortable in. It seems to be the most student control and one doesn’t need to worry about anyone because it assumes everyone is “good” and that all learners treat each other with respect. Humanism seems more discussion based in that the teacher will lay out the curriculum in the language and interests of the students and then the students will discuss the content before them. Humanism also promotes autonomy in that it will help one not to rely on others as the teacher merely guides them and lets them do the learning themselves. Overall Humanism seems difficult to achieve as all students need to have innately good behavior and it doesn’t account for the fact that some students might not be able to grasp the content by themselves as easily as they would with a teacher using different methods like positivism or behaviorism.